

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 05759 140248Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /070 W
-----003656 150238Z /64

R 131032Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0879
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 05759

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: CONGRESS (I) IS RECOGNIZED AS OFFICIAL
OPPOSITION IN LOK SABHA

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 3201; (B) NEW DELHI 3877; (C) NEW DELHI 5362

1. MRS. GANDHI'S CONGRESS (I) WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION PARTY IN THE LOK SABHA, THE LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT, ON APRIL 12. THE SPEAKER ALSO RECOGNIZED C.M. STEPHEN, LEADER OF THE CONGRESS (I) GROUP IN THE HOUSE, AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 05759 140248Z

THE OFFICIAL LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, REPLACING Y.B. CHAVAN OF THE OFFICIAL CONGRESS. THE SPEAKER'S RULING WAS BASED ON HIS JUDGEMENT THAT MRS. GANDHI'S PARTY HAD ATTAINED A NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY OVER THE OFFICIAL CONGRESS. (THE CONGRESS (I)'S LEADER IN THE RAJYA SABHA, KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI, WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE OFFICIAL LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THAT HOUSE ON MARCH 23.) ALTHOUGH AN OFFICIAL LIST OF MP'S BELONG-

ING TO THE TWO CONGRESSES IN THE LOK SABHA IS NOT YET AVAILABLE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT 71 MP'S HAVE PLEDGED ADHERENCE TO CONGRESS (I), AS AGAINST 68 TO THE OFFICIAL CONGRESS.

2. THE RECOGNITION OF THE CONGRESS (I) AS THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION IN THE LOK SABHA WAS NOT UNEXPECTED. ALTHOUGH THE ANTICIPATED FLOOD OF CONGRESS MP'S TO MRS. GANDHI'S CAMP DID NOT OCCUR IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE FEBRUARY STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, THE OFFICIAL CONGRESS SUFFERED A SLOW AND STEADY EROSION IN ITS RANKS THROUGHOUT MARCH AND EARLY APRIL, AS MP'S CROSSED THE FENCE IN ONE'S AND TWO'S. THIS PROCESS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY HASTENED BY THE OFFICIAL CONGRESS' DISASTEROUS SHOWING IN THE KARNAL BY-ELECTION, AS WELL AS BY THE REALIZATION ON THE PART OF SOME MP'S THAT THEIR GRASS-ROOTS SUPPORTERS BACK HOME WERE SWITCHING SIDES TO CONGRESS (I). (THE OFFICIAL CONGRESS IS NOW THE RECOGNIZED OPPOSITION GROUP IN STATE ASSEMBLIES ONLY IN ASSAM AND RAJASTHAN.)

3. MRS. GANDHI CAN NOW CLAIM WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION THAT HERS IS INDEED THE "REAL" OPPOSITION PARTY. THERE SEEMS TO BE, HOWEVER, A STIFFENING ATTITUDE AMONG DIE-HARD ANTI-INDIRISTS IN THE OFFICIAL CONGRESS TO STICK IT OUT ALONE, EVEN IF THIS MEANS THEIR CONSIGNMENT TO POLITICAL OBLIVION FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. AT ITS APRIL 8 MEETING, THE OFFICIAL CONGRESS' WORKING COMMITTEE REJECTED ANY CONSIDERATION OF UNITY MOVES WITH THE CONGRESS (I). A "BUNKER MENTALITY" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 05759 140248Z

SEEMS AN APT CHARACTERIZATION OF THE MOOD AMONG THOSE OFFICIAL CONGRESS FIGURES WHO PROCLAIM THEIR RESOLUTE RESISTANCE TO ANY FORM OF RECONCILIATION WITH MRS. GANDHI. BUT THOUGH SUCH LEADING FIGURES AS CHAVAN, DR. KARAN SINGH, AND BRAHMANANDA REDDY WILL PROBABLY PERSIST IN THEIR ANTI-INDIRA POSTURE, IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT OTHERS LESS DETERMINED THAN THEY WILL GRADUALLY DRIFT INTO MRS. GANDHI'S CAMP. GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE05759
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780161-1010
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780461/aaaabzuf.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ebf039b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 3201, 78 NEW DELHI 3877, 78 NEW DELHI 5362
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2982377
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESS (I) IS RECOGNIZED AS OFFICIAL OPPOSITION IN LOK SABHA
TAGS: PINT, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ebf039b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014